

NOTICE OF 30-DAY PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD TOXAWAY MILL SITE

Anderson, South Carolina.

The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) announces a 30-day period for citizens to comment on a potential Voluntary Cleanup Contract for the Toxaway Mill Site. The contract, VCC-06-5687-NRP, will be between Anderson County and DHEC. The contract will allow Anderson County to purchase the property as a Brownfields site, which may have environmental pollution resulting from past practices. Anderson County did not create the pollution, but wishes to buy the property and voluntarily clean it up for reuse. If this contract is implemented, DHEC will not hold Anderson County liable under State Superfund laws for pre-existing contamination in exchange for performing work under the Voluntary Cleanup Program. If contamination has spread off of the property, State law will not allow affected parties to file suit against Anderson County for the past operations; however, legal action may be pursued against any former owners or operators.

The Brownfields site being purchased by Anderson County consists of 13.67 acres identified by tax map #150-09-02-001, 149-12-07-008 through 149-12-07-013, and 149-12-04-007 through 149-12-04-009. The property is located off of South Gossett Street between Minor and East Whitner Streets. The property was formerly a textile mill engaged in dyeing and finishing operations from the mid-1900's until 1982. The abandoned mill building burned in 2000. Environmental audits of the property suggest that lead paints, asbestos and unknown chemicals may have been released to the environment during its operations or in the fire.

Anderson County intends to redevelop the property into light industrial and/or commercial use. Due to the potential for environmental pollution at the site, Anderson County wishes to enter into a contract under DHEC's Voluntary Cleanup Program. Under the proposed contract, Anderson County will test samples of soil, groundwater, and surface water. If contamination is found, Anderson County will remove contaminated soil from the property to meet applicable standards and may be required to take additional steps to protect human health and the environment based on the laboratory findings. The proposed contract is available at http://www.scdhec.gov/lwm/html/public.asp. Printed copies may be obtained from the DHEC Freedom of Information Office at (803) 898-3882.

DHEC promotes redevelopment and revitalization of Brownfields sites across the state so that these properties do not become abandoned or unusable. Public comments on proposed Brownfields contracts assist DHEC in balancing the environmental and redevelopment issues to be in the best interest of the state. Any comments or questions may be directed to Angela Gorman, Project Manger, email gormanak@dhec.sc.gov, telephone (803) 896- 4121, or Craig Dukes, Brownfields Public Information Coordinator, SCDHEC – Bureau of Land and Waste Management, 2600 Bull Street, Columbia, SC 29201; email dukescv@dhec.sc.gov, TOLL-FREE telephone (866) 576-3432. Citizens may provide written, email, or telephone comments on the Toxaway Mill Site proposed contract until February 19, 2007.